TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM
MEETING NOTES
December 20, 2001
CORPS OF ENGINEERS NORTHWESTERN DIVISION OFFICES – CUSTOM HOUSE
PORTLAND, OREGON

TMT Internet Homepage: http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/TMT/index.welcome.html

DRAFT

1. Greeting and Introductions

The December 20 Technical Management Team conference call, held at the Customs House in Portland, Oregon, was chaired by Cindy Henriksen of the Corps. The following is a distillation, not a verbatim transcript, of items discussed at the meeting and actions taken. Anyone with questions or comments about these minutes should call Henriksen at 503/808-3945.

2. Chum Operations.

Henriksen said this call had been convened at the request of Ron Boyce. Boyce reminded the group that, at yesterday's meeting, the TMT had discussed the BPA proposal about potential higher tailwater elevations at Bonneville. He added that, because Bonneville tailwater has been lower today, this is no longer an issue. Scott Bettin agreed, noting that, thanks to lower tides and lower flows from the Willamette system, BPA has been able to maintain tailwater elevations of about 12 feet today. Boyce asked that if flows or weather force any major changes to Bonneville operations between now and the next TMT meeting, a conference call be convened. It was so agreed.

What do you expect in terms of operations this weekend? Boyce asked. We expect to be able to meet the 11.5-foot tailwater target at Bonneville, Henriksen replied; the current tailwater elevation is 11.8 feet. Henriksen asked ODFW and WDFW to update the TMT on their spawning survey work as soon as possible. Shane Scott replied that the most recent update will be available tomorrow morning, and that he will distribute it via email.

When would you expect the spawning to be complete below Bonneville, so that we can end the chum spawning operation and move to the winter/spring protection flow operation at that project? Bettin asked. The salmon managers will discuss that, and will provide a response back to the action agencies, Boyce replied. Did you have a specific operation in mind? Boyce asked. We plan to maintain the 11.5-foot tailwater minimum, Bettin replied – the normal protection flow -- but do away with reverse load factoring.

Michelle DeHart asked whether the TMT has agreed not to try to protect redds that may have been established at higher elevations. Boyce replied that there is some provision in the BiOp for the protection of higher-elevation redds. Only if those redds were established because

of hydrosystem operations, said Bettin – that's not the case this year. My understanding is that the agreement is that the action agencies will provide an 11.5-foot minimum tailwater depth through emergence, Chris Ross replied.

Is there a date in the BiOp at which we would switch to a maintenance flow, rather than the current operation? DeHart asked. January 1, Boyce replied.

It sounds, then, as though Willamette flows and tidal influences are receding; we should be back in the 11.5-foot tailwater range at Bonneville by tomorrow, Henriksen said; Shane Scott has agreed to email the results from today's redd survey work to me tomorrow, after which I will send it out to the rest of the TMT. Boyce reiterated that the salmon managers will develop an estimate of the end of chum spawning and will provide that to the TMT as soon as it is available. In the interim, said Henriksen, if we don't hear back from the salmon managers, the default will be that the chum maintenance flow operation will begin on January 1, as specified in the BiOp. That means we will continue to maintain an 11.5-foot tailwater elevation at Bonneville, she said, but will stop reverse load factoring.

Don Englund offered one final thought: because of the high flows from the Willamette so far in the spawning period, water depths at the Ives Island complex have been equivalent to what you would see from a 13-foot Bonneville tailwater elevation. Once flows from the Willamette recede, he said, it is possible that some of the redds established while tributary flows and tides were higher could be dewatered. In other words, he said, we may want to consider a higher tailwater elevation at Bonneville through emergence. Henriksen took issue with this statement, noting that the Bonneville tailwater gauge is located just across the river from the Ives Island complex. Englund disagreed, saying that the gauge is closer to Tanner Creek. We don't need to make a decision today, Englund said, but I just wanted people to start thinking about that phenomenon. Boyce said he will attempt to convene a salmon managers' conference call tomorrow morning.

TMT ATTENDANCE LIST
DECEMBER 20, 2001

NAME	**AFFILIATION**
Julie Ammon	COE
Larry Beck	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Ron Boyce	ODFW
Scott Boyd	COE
Michele DeHart	FPC
Don Englund	USFWS
Margaret Filardo	FPC

Russ George	Water Management Consultants Inc.
Richelle Harding	D. Rohr & Associates
Cindy Henriksen	COE
Kyle Martin	CRITFC
Chris Ross	NMFS
Shane Scott	WDFW
David Wills	USFWS